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Chair: Mr. Haniff. ..... (Malaysia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Agenda item 27: Social development including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.8/Rev.1: Promoting social integration through social inclusion

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Román-Morey** (Peru) said that the draft resolution recognized the obligation of the State to promote policies of social inclusion directed toward creating a society for all based on respect for human rights, equality, access to basic services and promotion of individual participation.

3. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Finland, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, Suriname, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands and Tunisia had joined the sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.8/Rev.1 was adopted.*

5. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his delegation wished to express reservations about the fourteenth preambular paragraph, which it felt was not germane to the subject of the draft resolution. Progress toward social inclusion was driven primarily by policies and practices; market access and debt relief were important issues but were not pertinent to the issue at stake. The draft resolution would benefit from a more focused approach to issues more directly connected with social inclusion.

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1 Women and political participation

6. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

7. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that Algeria, Belize, Egypt, Jamaica, Morocco, the Philippines, Samoa, San Marino, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Thailand had joined the sponsors.

8. Several changes had been made to the text during the consultations. In the fifth preambular paragraph, "all" was to be inserted between "supporting" and "countries", and "worldwide" at the end of the paragraph deleted. In the seventh preambular paragraph, "may" should be inserted between "transition" and "provide". In the eighth preambular paragraph, "all" was to be inserted between "of" and "human". In the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "and cultural" should be deleted. In the twelfth preambular paragraph, the sixth and seventh lines should be deleted and replaced by the phrase "and its subsequent follow-up resolutions, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions".

9. In paragraph 6, the words "in accordance with" should be replaced by "within"; "national" was to be inserted between "their" and "efforts". In subparagraph (l), "reduction of" should be substituted for "reducing". In paragraph 10, "the participation of women" was to be changed to "women's participation", and "in democratic political activities" was to be changed to "in political and other leadership activities". In paragraph 11, "throughout the United Nations system" was to be deleted; the phrase "in all phases of the political process" should be added after "participation"; and "including on the participation of women in times of political transition" should be changed to "including in times of political changes and reform." In paragraph 12, "inter alia", should be added after "focus".

10. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Germany, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia had joined the sponsors.

11. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her delegation had participated actively in informal discussions of the draft resolution, out of its firm belief

in the importance of granting priority to women's advancement. The participation of Syrian women in all areas of life was on the rise. Women had been granted the vote in the early 20th century, and their progress had culminated in the recognition and enshrinement of full equality in the Syrian constitution. Women had held the post of Vice-President and were increasingly represented in other high-level posts.

12. Her delegation expressed disappointment and deep concern at the lack of cooperation on the part of the main sponsors in addressing the concerns of a number of delegations including her own, with the pretext that the text was drafted according to the wishes of the sponsors, as if the resolution was to be implemented only by those countries. The paragraphs that referred to a so-called "political transition" were of particular concern. Member States could hardly demand agreement on a term that had not been formally defined, something that the facilitators had themselves acknowledged throughout consultations. Her delegation was particularly surprised that those delegations had agreed on the notion of so-called constructive ambiguity, which further obscured the term.

13. Her delegation refused to enter into semantic mazes and ill-defined terms, which it would not accept as it appeared in the text or in any subsequent draft resolutions implying consensus. She hoped that, in future, the facilitator would address the concerns of all delegations on an equal footing.

14. **Ms. Farngalo** (Liberia) said that her country attached great importance to the advancement and empowerment of women and strengthening the leadership role of women in politics. The participation of women in peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction and development was crucial to the sustainability of peace and security. During Liberia's political transition, the women had made an effective contribution to peace negotiation and mediation and peacebuilding and in bringing about an end to 14 years of brutality and unwarranted suffering. Accelerated enhancement of women's political participation and engagement was needed, and her delegation recognized the draft resolution as an engine toward that end; it therefore encouraged Member States to adopt the draft resolution.

15. **Ms. Rasheed** (Maldives) said that her Government placed great emphasis on women's rights and the political transition process, and supported political participation by women in all areas and particularly during transitions. It was pleased with the proposed text, and appreciated the flexibility shown by the facilitator and the sponsors in their effort to accommodate the concerns of all the delegations. Her country would have preferred retention of the stronger references to democracy and political transition that had ultimately been removed in the spirit of compromise and agreement.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1 was adopted as orally revised.*

17. **Mr. Ferami** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had joined the consensus out of a belief that participation by women in the political process should be viewed not as a privilege but as an obligation of the Government to ensure equality and equal opportunity. His country had achieved very good progress with regard to participation by women in the political process, and his delegation therefore subscribed to the spirit and objectives of the resolution.

18. His delegation wished, however, to record its dissatisfaction with the undiplomatic, arrogant, and impudent manner in which the informal consultations had been conducted. It was the sovereign right of countries to align themselves with any country or any position they deemed more suitable for their national interests.

19. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba) said that her delegation had joined the consensus because of its commitment to political participation by women and the promotion of women's rights in all societies and under all circumstances. However, it wished to record its concern at the inclusion in the text of the phrase "states in political transition", a phrase which lacked a universally agreed meaning. It also regretted that such an important issue had been included in a resolution where it was foreign to the main subject. The defence of the political participation of women in all circumstances was a priority for the Organisation, and should not be used to promote specific interests that distorted its purpose.

20. **Ms. Calcinari Van Der Velde** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation had joined the consensus, inasmuch as political participation by women and gender equality were Government policies. Given the importance that her delegation attached to the draft resolution, however, it

regretted the arbitrariness displayed by the principal sponsor and the co-sponsors during the negotiations, undermining the main purpose of the draft resolution through the incorporation of imprecise terminology, specifically the repeated references to "political transition". Her delegation had reservations on the use of that term throughout the text. It also expressed its dissatisfaction that the concerns and critical positions of all delegations had not been taken into account.

21. **Mr. Butt** (Pakistan) said that his country welcomed the draft resolution for its contribution to the goal of promoting broader political participation by women. Women had held a variety of leadership positions in his country, including prime minister. It therefore supported the aims and objectives of the draft resolution and had joined the consensus. However, in the view of his delegation, the draft resolution should have addressed the issues in a broader format without bringing in controversial and undefined concepts such as "situations of political transition", which unnecessarily created controversy. It would also have been appropriate to situate activities in the context of political participation rather than in the general context of human rights. His delegation regretted that its constructive proposals had not been accommodated by the sponsors, but nevertheless looked forward to concerted action by all Member States to promote political participation by women at all levels and in all fields.

22. **Ms. Medal** (Nicaragua) said that in view of her country's promotion of participation by women in social and political areas her delegation had supported the draft resolution, but it wished to place on record its regret at the way in which consensus had been reached, and the neglect of the concerns of certain delegations.

23. **Mr. Lukiyantsev** (Russian Federation) said that his country attached great importance to equality between men and women and considered the participation of women in political life to be very important. It had therefore joined the consensus on the draft resolution. However, the focus on the issue of participation by women in political life in States undergoing political transition created imbalance and constituted a distraction from the main issue, the enhancement of participation by women everywhere irrespective of political, social and economic conditions.

24. With respect to the reference to the working group studying discrimination against women in legislation, his delegation noted that the activities of any special procedure needed to be in strict compliance with its mandate, and that any expansion of competencies or functions required the introduction of relevant amendments in resolutions. His delegation considered it inadmissible for that mechanism to be bypassed and for the interpretation of the working group's mandate to be expanded to give it the additional function of looking at the participation of women in political life, particularly in the context of implementation of the resolution at issue.

Agenda item 66: Rights of indigenous peoples (*continued*)

(a) Rights of indigenous peoples (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.26/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.26/Rev.1: Rights of indigenous peoples

25. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the programme budget implications of paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, said that, should the draft resolution be adopted by the General Assembly, it was envisaged that the high-level event to be held during the eleventh session of the Forum to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to be held from 7 to 18 May 2012, would comprise one meeting requiring interpretation into all six official languages, with additional requirements of $18,000 for interpretation and other meeting support services. Nevertheless, those additional requirements would be absorbed within the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

26. As for the words "within existing resources" in the same paragraph, he drew attention to the provisions of section IV of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009.

27. Should the draft resolution be adopted, no additional programme budget implications would arise for the biennium 2012-2013.

28. **Mr. Archondo** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany,

Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Liberia, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and the United States of America had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. During the negotiations on the draft resolution, States parties and indigenous peoples had shown great interest in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in 2014. He urged all delegations to participate actively in the negotiations on the modalities which would soon begin. Lastly, he drew attention to a minor editorial correction to paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. He asked the Secretariat to correct paragraph 1 of the draft resolution by deleting "as well as his most recent report".

29. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Armenia, Belarus, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica and Côte d'Ivoire had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

30. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his Government had made a priority of strengthening government-to-government relationships with federally recognized tribes and working jointly to address issues facing Native Americans. It looked forward to working with the international community to turn the aspirations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into reality.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.26/Rev.1 was adopted.*

32. **Ms. Boutin** (Canada) said that her Government was pleased to have joined consensus on the draft resolution. The Declaration was not legally binding and did not reflect customary international law nor change Canadian laws. For that reason, her Government continued to have reservations particularly on the eighth preambular paragraph and paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. Canada reaffirmed its commitment to building on a positive and productive relationship with First Nations, Inuits and Métis people to improve the well-being of Aboriginal Canadians based on a shared history, respect and desire to move forward together.

33. **Mr. Preston** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that his delegation was pleased to have joined consensus on the draft resolution, and was fully committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all individuals, including indigenous people, without discrimination. His Government continued to work overseas and through multilateral institutions to improve the situation of indigenous people internationally, and had provided political and financial support to the economic, social and political development of indigenous peoples around the world and would continue to do so.

34. It fully recognized that indigenous individuals were entitled to the full protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in international law, on an equal basis with all other individuals. Since equality and universality were the fundamental principles underpinning human rights, it was unacceptable that some groups in society should benefit from human rights not available to others. With the exception of the right of self-determination, it thus did not accept the concept of collective human rights in international law. It was important to ensure that individuals within groups were not left vulnerable or unprotected by allowing the rights of the group to supersede the human rights of the individual. Nevertheless, his Government recognized that the Governments of many States with indigenous populations had granted them various collective rights, which strengthened the political and economic position of and protection for the rights of indigenous peoples in those States.

35. His Government thus understood any internationally agreed reference to the rights of indigenous peoples, including in the Declaration, to refer to those rights bestowed at the national level by Governments to indigenous peoples and according to its stated position on human rights and collective rights.

Agenda item 69: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/66/L.32, A/C.3/66/L.37, A/C.3/66/L.43/Rev.1, A/C.3/66/L.71 and A/C.3/66/L.45/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.32: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

36. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

37. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that China and Paraguay had joined the sponsors.

38. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.32 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.37: Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

39. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

40. **Ms. Astiasarán Arias** (Cuba) said that consultations and bilateral meetings on the draft resolution had resulted in an oral amendment to delete the entire seventh preambular paragraph, and to delete the word "further" from the eight preambular paragraph. Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

41. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Cape Verde, Colombia, Honduras, Nigeria, and Swaziland had also joined the sponsors.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.37, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.43/Rev.1: Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

43. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

44. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Georgia, Indonesia, Libya, the Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia and Ukraine had joined the sponsors. The text reaffirmed that democracy was a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. It included new elements recognizing the importance of fair, periodic, and genuine elections, including in new democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower citizens to express their will and promote successful transition to sustainable democracies.

45. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Mali, Mauritania and Timor-Leste had joined the sponsors.

46. **The Chair** called the attention of the Committee to draft amendment A/C.3/66/L.71 to draft resolution A/C.3/L.43/Rev.1. He had been informed that the amendment contained no programme budget implications.

47. **Mr. Lukiyantsev** (Russian Federation) said that the issues raised in draft resolution L.43/Rev.1 were extremely important for strengthening democratic institutions in the Member States. However, the sponsors of the draft resolution had not been prepared to incorporate two key elements, which his delegation had placed in an amendment contained in document A/C.3/66/L.71.

48. Paragraph 1 of the amendment reflected his delegation's conviction that States bore the primary responsibility for organizing and holding elections and that the United Nations should provide assistance only at the request of national Governments and maintain neutrality and impartiality. Also, United Nations observer missions should issue an assessment regarding the outcome of an election only when they had a mandate to do so and only after an announcement of the results of such election by the competent national authority of the relevant State. To act otherwise could undermine the fragile process of building democratic institutions or even provoke armed conflict, particularly in situations where the United Nations was assisting post-conflict recovery or peacebuilding.

49. Paragraph 2 of the amendment reflected his delegation's wish, as expressed at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, to remove the reference to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which had not been developed as part of an intergovernmental process, but by representatives of civil society. His delegation was opposed in principle to the attempt to legitimize, by a General Assembly resolution, a document developed by a group of non-governmental organizations when that document had not been discussed at the intergovernmental level. His delegation fully supported the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards used in international election observation as expressed in the first part of paragraph 9 of the draft resolution.

50. His delegation believed that the above amendment would make the draft resolution more

balanced. If the amendment was unacceptable to the sponsors of the draft resolution, he asked the Committee to vote separately on the two paragraphs contained in the amendment. Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors of the amendment.

51. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his country did not agree to the amendment, and was amenable to the suggestion that the two amending paragraphs should be voted on separately.

52. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt) asked for clarification concerning the rule under which the vote was taking place.

53. **The Chair** said that it was taking place under Rule 130, of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

54. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his delegation would vote against the amendment to paragraph 3 and in favour of retaining the current text. The United States had facilitated open and transparent negotiations, and had included many amendments to the text, including many suggested by the Russian delegation. Regrettably, the Russian delegation had chosen to propose amendments to two paragraphs, thus forcing a vote on the draft resolution. The issue raised concerning paragraph 3 was outside the scope of a Third Committee resolution. The proposal was clearly the outcome of Russian dissatisfaction with the election certification in Côte d'Ivoire. The appropriate place for the Russian delegation to address their concerns with that mandate, was in the United Nations Security Council. His delegation hoped that the integrity of the text as a human rights resolution aimed at ensuring support requested by countries for the conduct of free and fair elections would be preserved.

55. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that Egypt attached great importance to the draft resolution, which it had supported in the past and would continue to support. Egypt recognized the important role of the United Nations in providing technical assistance to Governments. That role had to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral, and independent manner, and with full respect for the principle of national ownership of the election process, including the announcement of the outcome by the national authorities. His country would therefore vote in favour of the amendment to paragraph 3.

56. *A recorded vote was taken on the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation contained in paragraph 1 of A/C.3/66/L.71.*

In favour:

Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Grenada, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Saint

Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania.

57. *The proposed amendment contained in paragraph 1 of A/C.3/66/L.71 was rejected by 75 votes to 55, with 26 abstentions.*

58. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his delegation would vote against the amendment to paragraph 9 and in favour of retaining the current text. The Russian delegation was seeking in the proposal, to delete consensus language that had been agreed on and principles that had been endorsed by the African Union, the European Commission and the Organization of American States, among other organisations.

59. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that Egypt recognized that international observation was one of many factors contributing to fair, transparent, and genuine national elections, while also recognizing that regulating the process was within the competence of each Member State and had to be conducted in accordance with the State's national legislation and regulations, and in full cooperation with the non-governmental organisation observers. Egypt respected its obligations under documents that had been negotiated and adopted, with its participation, within the United Nations or other regional intergovernmental organizations of which it was a member. It was not bound by documents negotiated and/or adopted outside a comprehensive intergovernmental framework that had not adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, a situation that applied in the case of the Declaration of Principles. Egypt would therefore vote in favour of the amendment.

60. *A recorded vote was taken on the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation contained in paragraph 2 of A/C.3/66/L.71.*

In favour:

Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cameroon, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Grenada, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania.

61. *The amendment proposed by the Russian Federation contained in paragraph 2 of A/C.3/66/L.71 was rejected by 88 votes to 29, with 32 abstentions.*

62. **Mr. Abdullah** (Malaysia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation greatly appreciated the initiative of the United States delegation and its collaborative work with other delegations. His country believed that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral, and independent manner, and took note of the efforts made to harmonize the regulations and standards set forth in the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of

Conduct for International Election Observers. However, it was concerned at the absence of any intergovernmental involvement in the process leading up to the introduction of the Declaration and the Code. The United Nations must refrain from making any statement on the outcome of any election process before the official results had been announced by the national authorities. The amending paragraphs proposed by the Russian Federation would have strengthened the resolution, and his delegation had therefore voted in favour.

63. *Draft resolution L.43/Rev.1 as a whole was adopted.*

64. **Mr. Butt** (Pakistan), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his country considered the holding of periodic general elections to be an important element of the democratization process. While it was the responsibility of each State to ensure free and fair elections, the United Nations could provide valuable technical assistance to Member States when requested, and Pakistan was actively engaged with the United Nations in that regard. Such electoral assistance must be carried out in an objective, impartial, and neutral manner. International observation was also important for the promotion of free and fair elections. However, his delegation was not comfortable with the reference in paragraph 9 to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation, which contained controversial language and was not an intergovernmental document. His country had therefore supported the amending paragraphs proposed in A/C.3/66/L.71, which strengthened the text. It nevertheless agreed with the overall direction and substance of the resolution, and therefore supported the text as of the draft resolution a whole.

Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.45/Rev.1: Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

65. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

66. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that Albania, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Japan, Liberia, Lithuania, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine and United States of America had joined the sponsors.

67. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Honduras, Malta, Mexico, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Uruguay had also joined the sponsors.

68. *Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.45/Rev.1 was adopted.*

69. **Ms. Grabianowska** (Poland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union was a strong advocate of the human rights of and a major provider of assistance to internally displaced persons. It strongly supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons including the mainstreaming of their human rights into all parts of the United Nations system and their protection and assistance in peace, reintegration and rehabilitation processes. The European Union understood that all the United Nations resolutions referred to in paragraph 8 of the draft resolution just adopted comprised both General Assembly and Security Council resolutions consistent with previous General Assembly resolutions on that topic.

The meeting rose at 12:05 p.m.